AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please amend the title as follows:

POLYPEPTIDES AND COMPOSITIONS DERIVED FROM ~~EXPRESSED IN~~ THE HORNY LAYER OF THE EPIDERMIS AND ITS USE ~~THEREOF~~

Please amend the first paragraph on page 1 as follows:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/381,656, filed on December 29, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,645,509, which was a national stage filing under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application No. PCT/FR98/00636, filed on March 27, 1998 and claims foreign priority of Applications France 97/03899, filed March 28, 1997 and France 97/11317, filed September 11, 1997.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 17, page 38 as follows:

Internal sequencings made it possible to establish the sequence of two fragments, namely:

A: Lys Ser Tyr Gly Gly Tyr Glu Val Val Gly Gly Ser Ser Asp Ser Gly (SEQ ID NO:3)

B: Lys Ile Tyr Pro Val Gly Tyr Phe Thr Lys (SEQ ID NO:4).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 25, page 46 as follows:

The insertion of a guanine at position 1514 causes a reading frame shift and moves the stop codon from position 1523 to position 1603. The protein produced by this sequence differs at the level of the last two amino acids (I and S) which are replaced by the sequence:

Asp Ile Leu Ala Gln Val Lys Pro Leu Gly Pro Gln Leu Ala Asp Pro

Glu Val Phe Leu Pro Gln Gly Glu Leu Leu Asp Ser Pro (SEQ ID NO:5) which corresponds to an addition of 27 amino acids relative to the published sequence. The 5 cDNAs previously isolated all exhibited this insertion; the study was extended to other individuals. Ten control samples of human genomic DNA, obtained from ten individuals, were amplified in this region and analysed by enzymatic restriction. Indeed, the published sequence corresponds to the presence of a BsiMI restriction site at position 1510 which disappears in the sequence comprising an additional guanine, whereas an NciI site appears at 1512. The results are the same for the 10 individuals, namely that only the NciI site is present. This means that in these ten individuals, corneodesmosine is produced in a longer form than the published form of the S gene.

THE SEQUENCE LISTING:

The Office has identified sequences disclosed in the specification but not identified by a sequence identifier nor included in the sequence listing, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. To comply with the sequence rules, Applicants have incorporated the sequences in the application into the sequence listing and submit a substitute computer readable form (CRF) copy and substitute paper of the sequence listing herewith. Applicants respectfully request entry of the sequence listing and that the objections to the sequence listing be withdrawn.